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SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/PPD, NEA/P, INR/R/MR

LONDON FOR TSOU

PARIS FOR ZEYA

USCENTCOM FOR PLUSH

FOREIGN PRESS CENTER FOR ASILAS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KPAQ KMDR OIIP MU

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SHARM EL-SHEIKH AND THE ROOTS OF TERROR

In Search Of Answers

¶11. "Al-Watan," a privately-owned Arabic daily, carried an op-ed piece by Mohammed Naji Amayrah on July 24 under the headline "The Sharm El-Sheikh Explosions And The Search For Actual Causes":

"The explosions in Sharm El-Sheikh killed more than 80 people, most of whom were Egyptians. In the face of such attacks that claim the lives of innocent Arab civilians, children, and women, condemnation is a must, and denunciation of these attacks is the least we can do. The question is, what shall we do next? We must search for the root causes that lie behind such terrorist operations. No wise person would ever classify such criminal acts as a patriotic struggle or a just battle against foreign domination. The victims of these acts themselves reveal the fallacy and naivet of such classification."

Conference Call

¶12. The government-owned Arabic daily "Oman" featured an editorial on July 24 entitled "The Sequence of Violence - Is There An End To It?":

"The bloody explosions at the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheikh are part and parcel of the series of violent attacks that have become characteristic of the current age. Witness the recent bombings in London and Turkey...The war against terrorism launched by the United States has not made tangible achievements, despite removing the ruling regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq. Terrorist operations have continued and even increased, using ever more sophisticated technologies...This dangerous atmosphere cries out for an international conference to study the causes of terrorism, so that countries can apply prudence and forethought to this serious problem."

Looking Backwards

¶13. "Oman" also published an op-ed by Murtadha bin Hassan Ali on July 26 entitled "Terrorism And Its Relation To Intellectual, Economic, and Social Backwardness":

"More than four thousand innocent people have been killed in the terrorist attacks on New York, Washington, Madrid, London and other cities over the past four years. Terrorist murderers are also responsible for the deaths of almost one-and-a-half million Arabs and Muslims in Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, Algeria, and Afghanistan during the past twenty years...Arabs and Muslims are morally and religiously obliged to oppose these ideologues and extremists, who crazily encourage the murders in the name of Islam. It cannot be denied that some Arab countries have failed to challenge terrorist ideology from the beginning...The Arab-Islamic situation carries the germ of 'backwardness' and should be dealt with practically. The existence of antagonistic external forces does not absolve Arabs and Muslims from their responsibilities."

BALTIMORE